
SECTION: FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

SUBJECT: Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

ITEM: Educating Participants on Using FMNP Checks

Policy

Local WIC agency (LA) staff shall ensure that all participants and/or their alternates receiving FMNP check booklets are instructed on the proper use of the checks.

Required Procedures

Local Agency staff shall inform each participant and/or alternate who receives FMNP checks of the following:

- I. Where and when to use the checks, including:
 - A. A list of nearby markets authorized to accept FMNP checks. The list can include a simple map and/or directions to the WIC-authorized markets.
 - B. When checks are valid for use by participants (between the local agency's season start-up date and November 30 of every year.)
 - C. Who can accept checks. FMNP checks can only be accepted by WIC-authorized farmers who are selling fresh, locally grown produce at a WIC-authorized market. A current list of authorized farmers is available at www.WICworks.ca.gov;
 - D. WIC-authorized farmers and markets will display the current **WIC & Senior Farmers' Market Checks Welcome** authorization sign. Participants should not give checks to a farmer at a stall that does not display the sign;
 - E. Checks must not be used at roadside farm stands, farm stores, grocery stores or to buy produce from non-authorized farmers.
- II. A list of eligible and non-eligible foods. Each FMNP check is worth \$4.00 to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, and fresh cut edible herbs only. No honey, nuts, eggs, flowers, baked goods, dried fruit, plants, or non-food items may be purchased with the WIC FMNP check;

- III. FMNP checks are not transferable to another person;
- IV. No change shall be given or returned to participants as part of a WIC FMNP transaction. When the amount of the sale is less than the dollar value of the check, the farmer may add additional fruit or vegetables to the purchase to bring the sale as close as possible to the check value;
- V. Participants may pay with cash or CalFresh EBT card if the purchase of eligible produce goes beyond the value of the FMNP check;
- VI. No sales tax shall be charged on produce sold;
- VII. Participants shall not be charged a higher price than other customers at the market for the same produce;
- VIII. Torn, damaged or altered checks or checks without serial numbers cannot be used;
- IX. Checks must be handled as if they were cash;
- X. Checks must not be exchanged with the farmer for cash;
- XI. Lost or stolen checks or check booklets will not be replaced. Participants must report lost or stolen check booklets to their WIC Local Agency;
- XII. Participants can file a complaint against a farmer or market.

Guidelines

- I. LA may direct participants to the State WIC website at www.WICworks.ca.gov for the most current list of WIC-authorized CFMs for the season. Suggested instruction to the participant: *"Here's a list of the markets in this area, but if you want to use your checks at another market in the State, you can also find all authorized markets by going online at www.WICworks.ca.gov;*

Authority

7 CFR 248.10,
7 CFR 248.7